

Mike Koning: Graffiti Eradicator



Since 2008, Mike Koning has covered hundreds of graffiti spots, immediately responding to every request no matter how challenging. His work helps deter the damaging behavior and gang activity. This was evident in 2010 when the number of tags he cleaned from structures or signs within the City of West Lafayette decreased by more than 50% from the previous year.

Mike has had a giving and service-oriented heart and spirit since he was a youngster. His service to the community began as a paperboy at age 10 for the Journal and Courier. He also was an usher at the theatre, worked at the service station and food store,

and even set up bowling pins! He married his school sweetheart, Patricia, and together had four lovely children.

After completing an apprenticeship program at Haywood Publishing, Mike worked at the Lafayette Journal and Courier and at Eli Lilly printing and mail services. Upon retiring from Eli Lilly in 2000, Mike has had more time to pursue his numerous hobbies which include woodworking, amateur radio, hunting, raising quail and pheasants, model trains, and even being a magician! Besides covering graffiti, Mike also is creating and building a sixty-acre playground for his family and friends and finds time to serve as a tour guide at the new plant of his first employer, the Lafayette Journal and Courier.

Most important to Mike, aside from his hobbies and volunteer roles, is his family, whom he fondly describes as his best friends.

Thank you, Mike, for your determination and dedication in making West Lafayette a clean and safe community.